**Policy Clarifications**

**Medical Assistance – MAWD**

**PMW-19919-316**

**Submitted: 5/5/2020 Agency: CAOs**

**Subject:** Medical Assistance for Workers with Disabilities (MAWD) Reinstatement for Individuals Who Self-Attest to Paying Premium During the COVID-19 Emergency

**Question**: Should the County Assistance Office (CAO) reinstate MAWD for individuals who were closed due to the non-payment of their MAWD premium and self-attest they mailed in their premium payment during the coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency?

**Response By: Division of Health Services Date:**

Yes. The CAO will reinstate MAWD benefits for any MAWD recipient who was closed due to non-payment of their premium in January or February 2020 and states they mailed their premium payment to the MAWD mailbox. This time period follows the 60-day reconsideration policy for a Medical Assistance (MA) closure ([MAEH 379.2](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/379_Reconsidering_Denied_Applications_and_Reopening_Closed_Benefits/379.2__Reopening_Closed_Benefits.htm)). The 30-day reinstatement time period in [MAEH 316.66](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/316_MAWD/316_06_Premiums.htm?rhtocid=_10_5_3#316.66_Failure_to_Pay_Premiumbc-4) will be updated to 60 days.

**NOTE:**  Due to the passing of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the CAO will not close MA benefits for individuals who are eligible on or after March 18, 2020 ([Ops 20-03-03](http://services.dpw.state.pa.us/oimpolicymanuals/ma/c_294241.pdf)). Since MAWD does not close until the end of the month, any MAWD budget closed in March or after for any reason during the COVID-19 emergency will be reinstated.